

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1-40 were pending in the present application. Claims 12-15, 24-31, and 38-40 are allowed. The present response amends claims 3-5, 9-10, 17-19, 21, 34, and 37, and cancels claims 1, 2, 11, 16, 20, 32, 33, 35, and 36, leaving pending in the application claims 3-10, 12-15, 17-19, 21-31, 34, and 37-40. Reconsideration of the rejected claims is respectfully requested.

I. Allowed Claims

Claims 12-15, 24-31, and 38-40 are allowed.

II. Objection to the Claims

Claims 3-10, 17-19, 21-23, 34 and 37 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Claims 3-5, 9-10, 17-19, 21, 34, and 37 have been rewritten in independent form including all such limitations and should be in condition for allowance. Claims 6-8 and 22-23 depend from claims 3-5, 9-10, 17-19, 21, 34, and 37 and therefore also should be in condition for allowance. Applicants therefore respectfully request that the objection to claims 3-10, 17-19, 21-23, 34 and 37 be withdrawn.

III. Rejection under 35 U.S.C. §103

Claims 1-2, 11, 16, 20, 32-33, and 35-36 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being obvious over *Bareket* (US 6,079,256) in view of *Credendino* (US 6,436,595). Although Applicants do not necessarily agree with the rejection, claims 1-2, 11, 16, 20, 32-33, and 35-36 have been canceled from the present application in order to expedite issuance of the allowed claims. Applicants therefore respectfully submit that the rejection is now moot.

IV. Amendment to the Claims

The amendments to claims 3-5, 9-10, 17-19, 21, 34, and 37 are intended only to re-write these dependent claims in independent form, and are not intended to alter the scope of the claims or limit any equivalents thereof. The amendments are supported by the specification and do not add new matter to the specification.

V. PTO-1449

On July 25, 2003, Applicants submitted a supplemental information disclosure statement, a copy of which is included herewith. Applicants have not received a copy of the PTO-1449 showing consideration of the submitted references. Applicants respectfully request receipt of a copy of PTO-1449 showing such consideration. Applicants also are submitting along with this response another supplemental information disclosure statement, along with the appropriate fee. Applicants respectfully request consideration of the references submitted therein.

VI. Conclusion

In view of the above, it is respectfully submitted that the application is now in condition for allowance. Reconsideration of the pending claims and a notice of allowance is respectfully requested.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any deficiency in the fees filed, asserted to be filed, or which should have been filed herewith (or with any paper hereafter filed in this application by this firm) to our Deposit Account No. 50-1703, under Order No. TWI-30400. **A duplicate copy of the transmittal cover sheet attached to this Response to Office Action Mailed December 22, 2003, is provided herewith.**

Respectfully submitted,

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Dated: March 2, 2004

By: 

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